

Message

From: Beeler, Cindy [Beeler.Cindy@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/22/2018 6:58:10 PM
To: Zimmerle,Dan [Dan.Zimmerle@colostate.edu]
Subject: Re: Administration actions on Methane-related rules

Dan -

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is promulgated in a final rule published 12/8/17 in the Federal Register to temporarily suspend or delay certain requirements contained in the rule published in the Federal Register on November 18, 2016, entitled, "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation" until January 17, 2019.

As far as I can tell from a quick scan, most of the provisions that were to go into effect in January of 2018 have been postponed, delaying the effective dates for these sections until January 17, 2019. That includes the LDAR requirements.

As for the federal EPA oil & gas rules, NSPS OOOOa (and the CTGs for ozone nonattainment areas designated 'Moderate' or above), they are in the midst of review ...

On June 16, 2017, EPA proposed a two-year stay of the rule's fugitive emissions requirements, well site pneumatic pump standards, and requirements that closed vent systems be certified by a professional engineer while the agency reconsiders issues associated with these requirements. EPA also proposed a three-month stay of the requirements. Under the proposals, sources would not need to comply with these requirements for the duration of the stays.

On November 1, EPA signed two Notices of Data Availability, or "NODAs," to provide information on some of those issues and suggestions, and to seek public comments from the public to assist the agency in developing a final rule. The NODAs sought comment on these suggestions for the fugitive emissions requirements, well site pneumatic pump requirements and a requirement that closed vent systems be certified by a professional engineer. They also sought comment on EPA's legal authorities both to stay certain requirements in the 2016 rule, and to amend the rule to extend or provide phase-in periods. In addition, the NODAs sought additional information and comment on challenges to implementing the 2016 rule. The comment period on the NODAs closed December 8, 2017. EPA received 17,000 comments. We have been reviewing those comments and anticipate taking final action on the stay proposals soon.

EPA intends to look broadly at the rule during the reconsideration process. EPA anticipates issuing a proposal for public review and comment later this year.

Note: The stays EPA proposed in June are separate from the three-month stay that was vacated by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in July 2017. At that time, the court emphasized that nothing in its opinion limits EPA's authority to reconsider the oil and gas standards and to proceed with its June 16, 2017 proposed stays of certain requirements in the rule.

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From: Zimmerle,Dan <Dan.Zimmerle@colostate.edu>
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 5:27:37 PM
To: Beeler, Cindy
Subject: Administration actions on Methane-related rules

Cindy, I'm trying to track down the status of the various leak-related rules, particularly the ones which have been suspended for re-evaluation or rescinded since 21 January 2017. Is there a compact list for that information? Hard to track the state of the various reviews, stays, etc.

Dan.

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